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Lancasterian plan, is hardly fair; and his pointing out nothing but defects, must appear to strangers as if there were no perfections to notice, which may have the effect of making enemies to the system among those who know little of its merits, particularly at the present time, when the hue and cry is raised, by the "Church in danger" Gentry against Lancaster, the sectarian, and his levelling system of education.

In fact, those schools carried on in many respects, on J. Lancaster's plan, are very injurious to the general system, inasmuch they are apt to be conducted with such a laxity of discipline, as to appear any thing but a Lancasterian school, and when any one of those schools are in the neighbourhood of a Lancasterian school, properly so called, the looseness of the discipline encourages children to attend it in preference to one where they are strictly kept to their duty.

Permit me here to recommend to persons who talk of the Belfast Lancasterian school, before they give a decided opinion, to take the trouble of examining the school, as instances have been known of assertions being made on hear-say evidence, that "the school was not conducted on the Lancasterian plan, inasmuch as the Scriptures were *entirely* rejected." When the fact is, that many lessons are selected from the Scriptures; but at the same time it has been thought, for the interest of the school, that those selections should be entirely clear of controversial points, in order that offence should not be given to any sect of Christians, and it is also a fact, that *one* of the rules of the school is, that Bibles and Testaments of the English and Doway translation be given as premiums to the children for proficiency.

It is with great pleasure I take

this opportunity of paying to the children of the Belfast Lancasterian school, that meed of praise which is so justly their due; and it is with the most heartfelt satisfaction that I can, from experience, contradict the assertions of a newspaper essayist, some time since who said, the children of the poor of this town were "a generation of vipers."—Since the commencement of this institution there have been admitted into the Sunday and daily schools above 1200 children of both sexes, and of this number only three have been expelled for bad conduct; nor has the teacher been obliged to resort to severe punishments but in comparatively very few instances. And the improvement in their deportment out of doors, has been the pleasing subject of observation with many.

The girls' schools, both Sunday and Daily, have been lately opened, and are going on in a manner highly creditable to the system, and to themselves. It is inconceivable the regularity and good order kept up among them, and of their consequent improvement no doubts can reasonably be entertained.

The working system for the girls is not yet commenced, but it is hoped that in the course of the ensuing summer, a plan for that purpose will be matured and carried into effect.

I am yours, &c.

NAIRETSACNAL.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

RAMBLE IN 1810.

Continued from No. 43, p. 103.

A LITTLE northward on the right, we passed the townland and hamlet of Carnlea, literally, *Cairn-liath*, i. e. the Grey Cairn; so called from a cairn of stones which stands

in a field near the road, which is, perhaps, the only existing monument of some famous chieftain or chieftains, who fell in battle, of whom,

“—grey tradition tell us wondrous tale.”

Passing *Teldearg*, which name signifies, red fruitful soil, we began to ascend the road which leads over Collin mountain. My companion informed me that on a clear day the view was remarkably fine, but it was now lost, the mist being so close that we could only see a few perches. However, as we descended, the sun began to break forth through the haze, and our fears of a wet day entirely disappeared; at the same time we passed by the pleasant seat of John Gilliland, esq. whose fine improvements fully testify what may be done on almost any soil, by a proper mode of cultivation. No where that I have seen, is this more evident than here, for thought on the brow of a bleak mountain, and encompassed by bogs and heath; his fields generally present a scene, both as to cultivation and planting, which might really vie with the most fertile districts.

The shrubberies and other plantings having as yet lost little of their foliage, owing to the rather unusual mildness of the season, appeared to much advantage, the beams of the sun now breaking through their closest coverts, giving the whole those beautiful tints of shade which are so justly admired by the painters of landscape. Decay was however visible, for they presented,

“—a crowded umbrage, dusk and dun
Of every hue, from wan declining green
To sooty dark, ————.”

As the morning breeze sprang up, the haze disappeared, and we had soon a full prospect of the country, which indeed is rather uninteresting. As far as the eye could dis-

tinctly observe the houses were far from numerous, and little planting; large tracts consisted of bog, or were covered with heath, the solemn brownness of which presented a dreary aspect. The majestic mountain of Slemiss was seen to the right, but its lofty summit was as yet “cloud capt,” the clouds seemed as if resting upon it, but presently they appeared to hover, and at last overpowered by the breeze floated before it down the valley in a manner both pleasant and romantic.

Crossing a river we entered Glenwhirry, corrupted from *Glench-uraidh*, i. e., the champion's vale, a name probably taken from some well fought battle of former times. A. D. 775, an obstinate battle is recorded to have been fought near this place, on the mountains of *Mis*, between the Albanian and Hibernian Dalnarians, in which fell Niall M'Donnell, a chief of the Hibernians. Slemiss was formerly called *Mis*, perhaps an abbreviation of the proper name, *Sliabh-mios*, monthly mountain, i. e. the mountain on which monthly sacrifices were performed to the moon, in the days of pagan superstition. It was also the northern boundary of the ancient Dal-Radia, which comprehended more than half of the present county of Antrim. From *Mis* being noticed above in the plural, it is likely that the name anciently related also to the hills adjacent, as Douglass, &c.

The river noticed above rises about six miles from the place we passed, in a large waste called the *Braid-bog*, on the north side of Shanes-hill. It for some space consists of several branches, as the Misty-burn, Killylane-burn, &c. which unite near *Maherabawn*, i. e. Whitefield, and then also takes the name of the latter place, until it enters Glenwhirry, when it is called Glenwhirry water; which name it keeps until it ar-

rives near Kells, when it is called Kells-water, a name it retains till lost in the Main-water. For this space it is the boundary between the estates of the noble families of O'Neill and Chichester. The former possesses the northern side, but many of the inhabitants hold their lands by perpetuity from — Hamilton, esq. of Dublin, at a very easy rent, yet where these tenants have part let off to others the rents are high indeed. Many farms were within these 20 years worked in *rundule*, but this custom is now finally abolished. The lands are all free from tythe.

Some part of the most mountainous places of this country belong to Lord Mountcashel, but as there are no mearings, except a grey stone here and there, the boundaries are so imperfectly known, that either he or Earl O'Neil grants occasional liberty to sportsmen; the Moorcock (*Tetrao Scoticus*,) being common amongst the heath.

Many families in this country are of the same surname, therefore several persons are often of the same, in consequence of which they use distinctive names. Sometimes these names relates to the visage or statue of the person, hence they have *lang Jack*, *black Jack*, *fair Tam*, *rough Tam*, &c. In other cases the name is taken from the situation of the persons residence, these are distinguished after this manner, *Rab o'the Glen*, *Will o'the Bog*, *Tam on the Brea*, and numerous such distinctions. These phrases fully show the Scottish origin of the inhabitants, similar terms being still used in the shires of Argyll and Galloway in Scotland, from whence many of them yet trace their origin.

A considerable part of the road leading through this district, was at this time in a very bad state of repair; some places were nearly impassible for loaded cars, &c. This

I thought rather extraordinary as the county cess this year amounted to upwards of £31,000, being about double of what it was twenty years ago!

With respect to the roads the fact appears to be, that of late so many cross ones have been made, in numerous instances to accommodate a few individuals, that some of the others when not close to a nobleman or gentleman's seat are often much neglected.

In passing along, such of the houses as we had an opportunity of seeing appeared to be pretty snug, and near each a large *turf* stack. The lands appeared to be generally indifferent, and certainly did not say much for their possessor's system of agriculture; indeed so little was in an arable state, though much presented proofs, from their fine verdure, of being easily made so, that it appeared as it were merely the scratchings of cultivation. However as we approached Broughshane, the country gradually became less wild, and the whole considerably enlivened by some nice white houses, seats of the neighbouring gentlemen, among which those of the Rev. George Macartney, and Mr. Adam Duffin were most conspicuous.

Passing a neat little church with a small octagon spire, which was not quite finished, we entered Broughshane, literally Broghshaue, i. e. John's burying place. The former part of this name is Tuetonic, a language formerly spoken in this Island as appears from several antiquaries, particularly the venerable Bede. This village is the property of Earl O'Neil; it contains ninety-one dwelling houses, and 399 inhabitants, the lower class of whom gain their livelihood by the linen business. It stands in the parish of Racavan, which name is a corruption of *Rath-Cabhan*, i. e. the fort of the cultivated plain,

probably alluding to a large *Rath*, a little N.E. of the village. In the union it is united to the adjoining parish of Skirry, the small church just noticed serving for both; indeed so few of the inhabitants belong to the established church that it could also serve for two other parishes! Here is a meeting-house belonging to Dissenters, it however presents nothing worthy of notice.

Our walk had by this time so much improved our appetites, that the chief object was to get breakfast as soon as possible; we therefore entered a small inn, the sign of which had a most promising appearance for persons in our present state. It was the figure of a master free-mason in the robes of office, but instead of the compass, square, and such like emblems, being also on it, there was painted, loaves, rolls, baps, &c.; figures which I assure you courteous reader had now more allurements for us than any other hieroglyphics whatsoever.

At breakfast, each article was excellent; perhaps the flavour was heightened by the exquisite *sauce*, and we now resolved to visit the ruins of Skerry church, distant about two miles, to which place, as we proposed to return to Broughshane, our landlord offered to accompany us, an offer which we gladly embraced. The fineness of the day rendered our walk truly delightful, and our companion was very sociable. He took not a little pains to impress upon us a favourable opinion of the country, and of every object of which we took notice. The district through which we were passing, though inclining to wildness, he described as exceeding fertile, and on our expressing some doubts of several tracts which seemed "disinherited by nature," he gravely asserted that even at Slemish the soil

was so luxuriant, that cheese was made which for richness equalled any made in Ireland!

We now expected to have heard of the land "flowing with milk and honey," but the discourse was broken off by the numerous groups of people passing by to public worship—for reader I am now obliged to disclose that it was Sunday—which disclosure also informs you that we had considerably exceeded the sabbath days journeys of "holy writ," yet reader as you may have sometime in your life went a *step* too far, perhaps, even on Sunday, I trust you will not lose your candour in the present instance.

(To be Continued.)

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

PORTRAITS OF MATRIMONY.

Part 2d.

PHILANDER is the son of a farmer, so wealthy that his address was usually distinguished by the addition of *Esq.* He was, from his birth, designed by his father for some one of the learned professions: and as the law promised the greatest emolument, with the least hazard of the want of success, it was ultimately chosen. In this ambiguous study, notorious for informing the understanding, and refining the taste, and at the same time, steeling the heart, and destroying the sensibility, Philander made considerable proficiency. His understanding was originally by no means above mediocrity; but in qualifying himself for his destined profession, he was persevering to an extreme: and as his father's wealth gave him every external advantage, with the assistance of a handsome person, and engaging address, he soon became eminent as an attorney. His progress in the acquisition of wealth, exceeded even